

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 3, 2007. Claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 9 are in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A new title has been provided, as required by the Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,810,460 (Kirkwood), and Claims 2, 4, 8, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kirkwood. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, (i) the first enable signal is asserted while the second enable signal is deasserted, so that an issuance of a request for using the processor bus from the built-in processor can be suppressed and the external processor connected to the external bus interface can use the processor bus exclusively, in combination with (ii) the second enable signal is asserted while the first enable signal is deasserted, so that an issuance of a request for using the processor bus from the external processor connected to the external bus interface can be suppressed and the built-in processor can use the processor bus exclusively.

Kirkwood is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed combination of features.

Kirkwood is merely seen to describe that an HREADY signal is driven low to extend the time for data transfer between a slow off-chip device and a faster chip bus, and that an HBUSREQx signal is held low to prevent the off-chip device from requesting use of the chip bus. See col. 3, lines 26 to 38 and 49 to 59 of Kirkwood.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Damond E. Vadnais/
Damond E. Vadnais
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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